REGION 3

Indiana Department of Education

IMAGINING the possibilities. MAKING THEM HAPPEN.

February   2015

Outreach Division of School Improvement

ESEA Flexibility Waiver
The U.S. Department of Education announced to states with an approved ESEA Flexibility Waiver, that they can request a three-year renewal to extend their ESEA Flexibility Waiver through the 2017-2018 school year. States will have until March 31, 2015 to submit their extension request to the U.S. Department of Education. The Indiana Department of Education will be working with stakeholders as we move forward towards the submission of Indiana's extension.

Hello to everyone! Welcome to the February Newsletter! As your Region 3 Coordinator, this is a place where I will send monthly communication. Each newsletter will contain an article focused on one of the IDOE Turnaround Principles as well as important dates, information and tips in one place to make it easier for you to access. When new information is released and needs to be distributed in a more timely manner, I will continue to send e-mails and important memos. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to call, text or email for anything you need. I am available to support your district or school in any way.

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In the Region...

Region 3 Teacher Earns Milken Educator Award
Glenda Ritz, Indiana's Superintendent of Public Instruction announced that Laurie Davies of Pine Tree Elementary School in Avon Community School Corporation has been honored as a recipient of the Milken Educator Award. The award is given by the Milken Family Foundation and along with national recognition, includes a $25,000 cash prize.

"I am incredibly honored to announce that Laurie Davies has earned this incredible award," said Ritz. "She is a true example of how one teacher's dedication can impact her students and her school community. She works with parents to build personal connections to strengthen her teaching and in her classroom, she focuses on literacy and its importance in all aspects of education. She is incredibly well-deserving of this recognition."

Davies teaches fourth grade at Pine Tree Elementary School in Avon. She teaches Language Arts, Math, Science and Social studies and has focused on the use of data to improve student performance. She also regularly develops creative ways to present curriculum to her students and provides professional development opportunities for her fellow educators. (Read More)

VCSC Unveils New Revolutionary Career Pathway
Vigo County schools announced a special curriculum starting next school year: a robotics career pathway. Doug Dillion, the Career and Technology Education Director of Vigo schools, says the goal of the program is to help students develop skill sets that rival those seen in other countries. The CTE program as a whole offers Vigo County high school students 29 different career pathways. The robotics pathway will provide students with six transferable college credits. It will also allow students to earn industry certifications so they can pursue a robotics degree or go straight into the industry with their skill set. (Read More)

Avon School Counselor Meets First Lady

Two central Indiana educators traveled Thursday to the nation's capital where they met with members of Congress and First Lady Michelle Obama. Jaime Hamm and Sarah Altman are part of an intimate group that met with the First Lady Friday. Hamm and Altman were part of 40 nominees from across the country for School Counselor of the Year. (Read More)

Effective Instruction

The focus of this article for this month is **Turnaround Principle 3 –Effective Instruction.** Turnaround Principles are not only used as a strategic system to support schools that may be struggling, but more importantly the eight principles are indicators for high performing schools. When discussing **Turnaround Principle 3** it is important to emphasize that there are many components that come together to create an environment of high quality effective best practices that develop into effective instruction. These components are outlined in the following reading.

Learning Objectives
Learning objectives must be posted and referred to within the lesson. These set the tone for students of what students are learning, the purpose, and how it applies to their life. The learning objective must be clear and measureable. It is essential that these objectives are aligned to the curriculum, Indiana Academic standards, and also align to the assessments that the student will be given.

Instructional Strategies
It is important to implement instructional strategies that require active engagement. Effective instruction demands the use of a variety of instructional and response strategies to meet the needs of multiple learning styles. It is also important for teachers to utilize student learning data from formal and informal assessments to intentionally select these strategies to maximize student engagement and growth.

Checking for Understanding
Checks for understanding (CFUs) are often neglected as an essential point within a lesson to help gauge student understanding or learning to help inform, monitor, and adjust instruction. Data from CFUs can and should be utilized to select instructional strategies and develop student groupings. When implemented effectively most students will master the objectives on first instruction and those that do not should be given further support. Administrators should monitor the use of CFUs during informal walk-throughs and formal observations.

Content Knowledge
It is important that all teachers are highly qualified in the area to be taught and have the necessary content knowledge to support effective instruction. Lessons need to be relevant rich with relevant standards-based content. The teacher is effective in approaching the content from multiple angles to support all learning styles. Also in effective classrooms students are highly engaged and are asking relevant questions that are addressed by the teacher or other students.

Use of Data
Effective teachers have the skills to utilize multiple measures of data which include diagnostic, formative, and summative data to differentiate and improve student achievement. It is important to establish a culture that data is reviewed in every teacher meeting to allow the staff to collaborate as a team to meet the needs of students. The use of data from CFUs and evidence from student learning can be utilized to re-teach and spiral as needed. It is essential that data is reviewed in a systematic way to identify students that are not mastering the basic skills so that they can be given diagnostic assessment to target their learning needs.

High Expectations
In effective schools and classrooms, teachers hold high expectations for all students academically and behaviorally. These educators believe that all students can achieve to the highest potential when provided high quality rigorous instruction. It is important that depth of knowledge and high level questioning are utilized in instruction as required with the new standards as well as the upcoming state assessment. High expectations are also established in not allowing students to give up or not respond when the work is viewed as too hard. Academic progress is monitored through discussion of student data with the leadership team. The leadership team is then able to provide support to classroom teachers and students that have exhibited the greatest need. Also in effective schools, classroom behavior is consistent throughout the school. Students are taught the skills of self-discipline and self-management.

This article is available here in its entirety to access separate from this newsletter. Look at the top of the page under newsletters - Effective Instruction-Turnaround Principle 3.
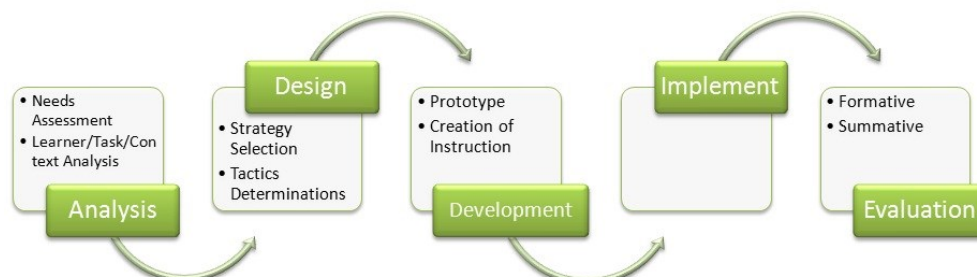
Indiana LOVES Digital Learning!

Indiana LOVES Digital Learning! Join fellow educators around the state as Indiana celebrates our 4th Annual Digital Learning Month all of February! Activities, resources and connections are all happening as we lead up to National Digital Learning Day on March 13th. Here's what to LOVE about this great month of learning:

- ♦ Digital Content Rock stars
- ♦ Geekouts
- ♦ Indiana Digital Learning Month 28-day Web 2.0 Challenge
- ♦ Pinterest Pinnovation
- ♦ Stop, Drop, and Tweet

To take advantage of all of these events, visit our Digital Learning Month page.

IDOE, Workforce Development and Microsoft launch the Microsoft IT Academy

The Microsoft IT Academy pilot is a partnership between the two departments and Microsoft to help Indiana residents, both secondary students and adults, obtain the basic computer and productivity skills needed for many types of careers. 89 schools are currently part of the pilot, with 61 Work One Centers to be added later this year. This pilot allows schools and Work One Centers to take place in the IT Academy at no cost to the schools. Among other benefits, the Academy makes 30 different certifications available to attendees, gives schools "lab licenses" for Office 2010 or 2013 and provides professional development for Hoosier educators.

In the coming weeks DWD will be integrating the Microsoft IT Academy courses throughout Indiana's network of WorkOne centers. Further details regarding Microsoft IT Academy offerings at WorkOne locations will be available in the near future. For more information about WorkOne locations and programs, visit www.workoneworks.com.

For more information on this program (Click Here)
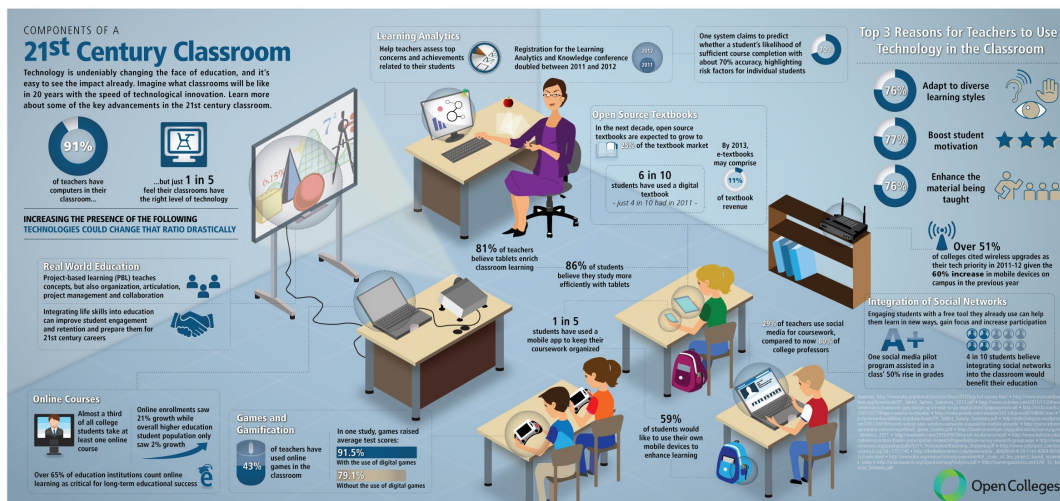
PD Opportunity— Five-Star Academy Provides Seats in Online Courses

The Office of eLearning's strategic partnership with Five-Star Academy means every Indiana school district is entitled to four (4) seats in Five-Star's facilitated online courses. The eight-week online courses cover cutting-edge strategies to assist teachers, instructional technology coaches, administrators, and curriculum directors' ways to integrate technology in schools. Participants receive 40 Professional Growth Points (PGPs) upon the completion of each course. Get course details at: http://www.five-startech.com/online-course-registration-other Discuss with your district personnel if interested in this opportunity.

The Watercolor Society of Indiana /James C. Lentz

Scholarship award of $1,000 to a high school senior who is pursuing a degree in either fine arts or arts education from a college, university, or school of design, and who will graduate from an Indiana high school before July 1 of the year in which the scholarship will be awarded. **May 1, 2015** is the application deadline along with the students portfolio, artist's statement, letter of recommendation and transcript by **May 1, 2015, to Watercolor Society of Indiana, 4181 East 96th Street, Suite 200, Indianapolis, IN 46240.** Call (317) 814-6194 X150, or email wsiemail@ori.net.

To access the application (Click Here)

Indiana Farm to School Newsletter and Video, School Gardens

Indiana's first farm to school video showcasing Paramount School of Excellence's school garden (Click Here)

The newest, winter issue of the Indiana Farm to School Network Newsletter is available. Click HERE to view. Check out the IFSN Facebook page to stay up to date on happenings & events.

Farm to School Steering Committee Meeting:
Wednesday, February 11th from 9:00 - 10:30am
Indiana Farm Bureau
Purdue Room
225 South East Street Indianapolis, IN 46202

REPA 3— Effective January 16, 2015

On January 16, 2015, the rule changes concerning teacher preparation and licensure known as REPA 3 became effective. While there are some changes, REPA 3 is not significantly different from REPA in many ways; however, two changes of note are the addition of another means to professionalize a teaching license (receive a 10-year license) using National Board Certification and the creation of an additional alternative path to licensure called the Career Specialist Permit. A Frequently Asked Questions document has been prepared to explain the changes and major provisions of REPA 3. If you have questions not addressed in the FAQ, please contact licensinghelp@doe.in.gov.

Guidelines for State Payment of AP Exams

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) will cover in full the exam fees for the 2015 Math and Science Advanced Placement (AP) exams taken by 11th and 12th grade Indiana students enrolled in the corresponding course offered by accredited public and nonpublic schools. Please note: nonpublic schools must be state-accredited. For further information please read attached memorandum or refer to the IDOE AP webpage (Click Here). Please direct questions to Dr. Leslie G. Fatum via e-mail at lfatum@doe.in.gov.

Office of School and Community Nutrition

The Office of School and Community Nutrition is now accepting nominations through February 20, 2015, for the School Food Service Employee of the Year. You have the opportunity to publicly recognize employees who make outstanding contributions to school food service. For information on how to nominate a deserving school food service employee, click **here.** For further information contact Suzette Hartmann via email at shartman@doe.in.gov.

Graduation Diploma Seals

Each year, Indiana high schools are asked to submit the total number of students who are expected to graduate with a Core 40, Core 40 with Academic Honors and Core 40 with Technical Honors Diploma. The IDOE uses this information to provide diploma seals and congratulatory letters to schools for each recipient. Submit your school's number of graduates Online Order Form by Friday, March 27, 2015. Please direct questions to Audra Hacker at ahacker@doe.in.gov .

Important information regarding decisions made by the SBOE….

In an effort to provide additional flexibility regarding testing this spring, during their February 4 meeting, members of the State Board of Education approved the following:

ISTEP+/IREAD-3 Testing Window Extensions
♦ ISTEP+ Part 1 Paper-and-Pencil Administration (5 additional days): Testing Window February 25 — March 13, 2015
♦ ISTEP+ Part 1 Online Administration (5 additional days): Testing window: March 2 - 20, 2015
♦ IREAD-3 Online and Paper-and-Pencil Administrations (2 additional days): Testing window: March 12 - 18, 2015

Spring ECA Administration for Students in Grade 8 and Below
Administering the Spring 2015 Algebra I ECA to students who are in grade 8 and below is now a local decision. As the Spring 2015 ECA is not part of the student's graduation examination, nor used to calculate school accountability, the decision to administer the Algebra I ECA to students in grade 8 (and below) during the Spring 2015 window is now a local one.

For these students:
♦ Accountability calculations are based on the ISTEP+ test.
♦ The new Grade 10 ISTEP+ based on college- and career-ready 2014 Indiana Academic Standards will serve as the graduation examination.

Sites choosing to administer the Spring 2015 Algebra I ECA to students in grade 8 and below will include the students in Questar's registration process.

Important Information— Spring 2015 ISTE+ Part 2 Test Administrations Times

Item types and test details are outlined in the ISTEP+ Examiner's Manuals, which are scheduled for delivery February 11-13, 2015.

Important Notes: The testing times are maximum amounts, and the number of minutes per test session is set to make sure students do not feel rushed as they respond to items measuring rigorous college- and career-ready content aligned to the 2014 Indiana Academic Standards. If all students in the class finish before the end of the test session, the teacher may call "time" and end the test session early.

Because this test includes items for use in scoring the Spring 2015 administration and to use in building the test for Spring 2016, more items than in previous administrations are included in the test design. Hence, the number of sessions has increased. The Spring 2015 administration is the first year of the new ISTEP+ test. Indiana owns all of the ISTEP+ items and will use these items for future test administrations.

Online item types (OL) include multiple-choice and technology-enhanced; paper-and-pencil (P/P) item types include multiple-choice and gridded-response (grades 4-8).

Practice Test
    ♦ Copies of the paper-and-pencil Practice Test will be delivered April 6-13, 2015, and the paper-and-pencil Practice Test window is **April 13 — May 8, 2015.**
    ♦ The online Practice Test window is **March 23 — May 15, 2015.**
    ♦ The **Science** and **Social Studies** online Practice Tests are **required;** the paper-and-pencil **Science** and **Social Studies** Practice Tests are **optional.**
Operational Test
    ♦ Item types are indicated within the "detailed version" table chart to be released.
There are no Book II assessments during the Part 2 test window.

Assessment Support for Algebra I & English 10 ECAs

Assessment staff at the Indiana Department of Education have recorded additional guidance related to the college- and career-ready Algebra I and English 10 sessions during the Spring 2015 ECA administration. The videos and PowerPoint documents created to support educators were posted on to IDOE last Friday, January 30.
New information is posted for the following areas on the ECA Web page:
        ♦ CCR Instructional and Assessment Guidance
        ♦ CCR Item Samples
        ♦ Experience College- and Career-Ready Assessment for ECAs

To read more (Click Here)

Assessment Calendar 2014-2015

January 21— February 27— WIDA ACCESS Annual Assessment

January 22— April1— ACCUPLACER

January 26— March 6— National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Grades 4, 8, &12—
  Online or Paper/Pencil Math, Reading, and Science

February 9— March 6— ECAs (Late Winter)

February 25— March 13— ISTEP+ Part 1— Paper/pencil (Applied Skills)

March 1— April 30— ISTAR (Science and Social Studies)

March 2— March 20— ISTEP+ Part 1— Online (Applied Skills)

March 12— March18— IREAD3 (Spring)

March 30— May 29 6— National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Grades 4, 8, &12—
  Paper/Pencil Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS)

March 30— May 15— NCSC Assessment (English/Language Arts and Mathematics)

April 20— June 3— ECAs (Spring)

April 27— May 8— ISTEP+ Part 2— Paper/pencil (Pre-approval required) (Multiple-Choice & Technology-Enhanced Items)

April 27— May 15— ISTEP+ Part 2— Online (Multiple-Choice & Technology-Enhanced Items)

June 1— July 24— IREAD3 (Summer)- Online

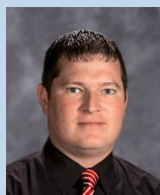June 8- July 24— IREAD3 (Summer) Paper/pencil (as needed)

June 18— July 30— ECAs (Summer)

Outreach Division of School Improvement

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IMAGINING THE POSSIBILITES. MAKING THEM HAPPEN.

Please don't hesitate to contact me. I am available to support your district or school in any way.

Please pass this newsletter on to your principals, teachers, and other school/district personnel that would benefit from the information it provides.

I am continually adding individuals that would like to be added to the newsletter email so that they can receive it directly. If you are one of those individuals please email me to request that your name is added to the list of recipients.

The following page contains Professional Development opportunities offered through the West Central Education Service Center. Please visit **WCIESC** to view the quality sessions they have available.

They are always looking to add to their agenda and PD calendar. Please let them know of the needs of your district and school.

West Central Indiana Education Service Center PD Opportunities

Feb. 26, 2015   **Top 10 Ways to Increase Student Engagement! (Without Adding Any More to Your Plate!) (Register)**

Join author and presenter Michele Luck for this active, hands-on training. Become re-energized and inspired to motivate your students to reach their maximum potential. You will experience student accountability methods during this workshop that you will be able to immediately incorporate into your classroom that ramp up student engagement to ensure student success!

Goals for Student Relationships and Engagement Training:

* Participants will actively engage in relationship building activities to take back to their classroom
* Participants will learn and apply strategies that will increase student motivation and engagement
* Participants will collaborate with colleagues on proven techniques that include students in the teaching-learning cycle and lead to student accountability

Feb. 27, 2015   **Instructional Leaders and Administrators Leading Change (Register)**

Are you an administrator, aspiring administrator, or teacher leader who is determined to be a positive change agent in your school? Do you want to lead change by influence? Plan to join Michele Luck and other educators who are passionate about their craft and about leading others. Work together with your colleagues on your journey down the path of change and influence. Content for the day will be based on the book Leaders of Learning by Richard Dufour and Robert Marzano.

Workshop Goals:

* Participants will examine how to create a collaborative culture and discover their role in leading the collective capacity.
* Participants will practice creating a shared vision and strategic plan.
* Participants will discuss how to stay the course and overcome obstacles.

Mar. 3, 2015   **Instructional Leaders and Administrators Leading Change (Register)**

This one-day session is intended for teachers 6-12 and other school personnel interested in designing and implementing high quality literacy instruction aligned with the new College and Career Ready Literacy Standards for Technical Subjects.

Participants will develop an understanding of:

* Specific skill requirements contained within the new standards
* Methods of incorporating new literacy requirements into existing learning units
* Strategies for engaging reluctant and below grade-level readers in reading complex text
* A simple process for directly instructing vocabulary and terms
* Techniques for designing and assessing content-area writing assignments
* Methods of minimizing the paper load and grading
* Implications for future assessments

Mar. 4, 2015   **Helping Students Meet the Social Studies Literacy Standards 6-12 (Register)**

This one-day session is intended for social studies teachers 6-12 and other school personnel interested in designing and implementing high quality literacy instruction aligned with the new College and Career Ready Literacy Standards for History/Social Studies.

Participants will develop an understanding of the following:

* Specific skill requirements contained within the new standards
* Methods of incorporating new literacy requirements into existing learning units
* Strategies for engaging reluctant and below grade-level readers in reading complex text
* A simple process for directly instructing vocabulary and terms
* Techniques for designing and assessing content-area writing assignments
* Methods of minimizing the paper load and grading
* Implications for future assessments

Mar. 12, 2015   **Does your school want to be a STEM Certified School? (Register)**

The West Central IN ESC has paired with the Great Lakes Comprehensive Center, American Institute for Research and the Indiana Department of Education to get you on the road to STEM Certification. Jeremy Eltz – STEM Specialist and Bill Reed – Secondary Math Specialist will discuss the requirements and the process of becoming a STEM Certified School.

Apr. 10, 2015   **Helping Students Develop Argumentation Writing Skills: ELA 6-12 (Register)**

This one-day session is intended for ELA teachers 6-12 and other school personnel interested in integrating argumentative writing into classroom instruction.

Participants will develop an understanding of the following:

* Specific types of argumentative writing contained within the new College and Career Ready Standards
* Differences between persuasive and argumentative writing
* Terminology related to argumentative writing
* Steps in writing an argument
* Real-world applications of argumentative writing
* Methods of minimizing the paper load and grading
* Implications for future assessments